FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 8, 2020

Contact: Sarah Irvin Clark
614-296-4057
sarah@irvinpr.com

Komen Columbus, American Cancer Society Ohio, Pelotonia Unite to Aid Central Ohio Cancer Patients During Pandemic

(Columbus, OH) – Susan G. Komen Columbus, Pelotonia and the American Cancer Society Ohio (ACS) have announced a partnership to ensure local cancer patients receive much-needed support during the coronavirus pandemic.

This unprecedented collaboration between the three biggest cancer-focused non-profits in central Ohio will provide valuable sources of information and assistance for local cancer patients, their caregivers, family and friends. Goals of the collaboration include:

- Ensuring local cancer patients get access to their treatment as safely as possible;
- Ensuring continuation of life-saving cancer research; and
- Establishing the need for continued funding support.

“We at Komen Columbus, Pelotonia and ACS Ohio provide critical services, education, screening and research dollars that keep our community at the forefront of cancer care,” said Komen Columbus Interim Executive Director Julie McMahon. “However, COVID-19 is setting us back in ways that are making it difficult to provide such care and could set us back years in lost research opportunities. We are working together to adapt to the changing climate and ensure we get local cancer patients and their families the treatment and services they need right now.”

Each year, thousands of people are diagnosed with cancer in central Ohio. Komen Columbus is on track to serve more than 4,000 women in 2020 through its programming; Pelotonia directs millions of dollars to cancer research each year; and ACS Ohio is on track to field tens of thousands of calls from Ohioans who need cancer-related resources and answers and is currently funding 22 researchers totaling more than $17 million.

Such important, life-saving work is in jeopardy and could potentially be cut in half due to the economic strain of COVID-19. Additionally, patients in need of clinical trial access or new therapies are experiencing unprecedented barriers. Komen Columbus, Pelotonia and ACS Ohio are serving their communities facing the threats of this pandemic in the following ways:
Pelotonia
- Created a research fund (in collaboration with The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute and the broader Ohio State University research enterprise) with an initial pledge of $1 million, to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on the cancer community.
- Launched a website at www.pelotonia.org/RISE. This site will offer new ways to connect while providing relevant resources, the latest information, and inspiring content, including live stream events.
- Donating 100% of all net profits from purchases made in The Shop through June 1, 2020 to support healthcare workers at The James and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

Komen Columbus
- Launched a Komen Columbus Pandemic Patient Assistance Program to support those affected by breast cancer and facing unexpected needs.
- Created a site with info specific to COVID-19 and breast cancer, with information on resources Komen Columbus and Komen National is providing – www.komencolumbus.org/COVID19.
- Launched virtual patient peer support and complementary therapies to help coping with stress and isolation, as well as a Komen Helpline (1-877 GO KOMEN).
- Offering care coordination to human service agencies and local city, state and federal efforts to stabilize access to housing, food and other critical needs.
- Providing emergency support for immunosuppressed patients in need of extra transportation, delivery, food access or other resources during this crisis.
- Scheduling online community activities and meet-ups providing social interaction and fun for the quarantined community.
- Providing answers on how you can help "flatten the curve" by postponing routine screenings and conducting Virtual Risk Assessments by Komen Care Coordinators.
- Providing advocacy and support for elected officials and public health leadership.

American Cancer Society
- Providing a 24-hour helpline and live chat for any cancer and COVID-19 related questions – 800-227-2345. They've currently seen a shift where nearly 80% of all incoming calls are related to navigating COVID-19 with cancer.
- Virtualizing scheduled in-person events to allow for social distancing and virtual cancer research fundraising.
- Scheduling live virtual events that empower the next generation of women in cancer research and girls in STEM. www.acsresearchers.org

###

About Susan G. Komen® Columbus
Komen Columbus has invested more than $33 million since it began in 1993 toward our goal of ending breast cancer forever. Komen is the only breast cancer organization attacking the disease on all fronts through community outreach, research, advocacy and global work. Locally, Komen Columbus
collaborates with community partners to fund education to the many women still unaware of their risk for breast cancer, screening to many uninsured and underinsured and support those diagnosed and undergoing treatment. Susan G. Komen has invested more than $13.5 million in breast cancer research in Ohio and $889 million in global research. For more information, visit komencolumbus.org or call (614) 297-8155 or Toll Free: 1-866-611-2873. Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

About Pelotonia
Founded in 2008, Pelotonia was established with the objective to fund innovative cancer research. As a centerpiece of its year-round fundraising efforts, Pelotonia hosts a three-day experience that includes a weekend of cycling, entertainment and volunteerism. Since its founding, Pelotonia has raised over $208 million for cancer research. Thanks to its generous funding partners – American Electric Power Foundation, Huntington Bank, L Brands Foundation, Peggy and Richard Santulli, Harold C. Schott Foundation, Cardinal Health, Diamond Hill Capital Management and Nationwide – Pelotonia is able to direct 100 percent of every dollar raised by its participants to cancer research at the OSUCCC-James and the Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology. For more information, visit pelotonia.org or tune in to our podcast ONE GOAL.

About the American Cancer Society
The American Cancer Society is a global grassroots force of 1.5 million volunteers dedicated to saving lives, celebrating lives, and leading the fight for a world without cancer. From breakthrough research, to free lodging near treatment, a 24/7/365 live helpline, free rides to treatment, and convening powerful activists to create awareness and impact, the Society is the only organization attacking cancer from every angle. For more information go to www.cancer.org.

###